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NEW LIQUOR AND TOBACCO DUTIES

Doubling Of Rate On Whisky And Gin

Retail Price Should Not Be Affected

New duties on liquor and tobacco—in the case of the former the duty is double the old rate—came into force in Hong Kong yesterday. The new duties, according to the Financial Secretary, the Hon Mr. C. G. S. Follows, who moved the implementation of the new scale in Legislative Council, will provide an extra \$7,000,000 in revenue next year.

Mr. Follows added that it was the considered opinion of Government that the increases in duty could and should in the main be absorbed by importers and retailers, and that the price of most sorts of liquor to the public should not be altered.

The motion was seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. R. R. Todd, and carried unanimously.

"Honourable Members will recollect that in winding up the debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, Your Excellency, in announcing your intention to appoint a Taxation Committee, referred to a paramount consideration on which the attention of each one of us should be fixed. This was the duty that we owed to use every effort to reduce as far as we might, both in extent and in duration of time, our dependence on His Majesty's Government for financial aid to meet the difference between our revenue and our recurrent expenditure."

"Two proposals for the raising of additional revenue have already been laid before this Honourable Council. A more obvious method of closing part of the gap between expenditure and revenue was an increase in the duties levied on liquor and tobacco which, although increased in 1941, are still below the average level in other British Colonies."

Approved By Committee
"For obvious reasons it is not possible to provide for prolonged discussions prior to the introduction of a measure of this sort and yesterday afternoon certain proposals which had been carefully considered by Your Excellency and your advisers were placed before the Taxation Committee. These proposals are embodied in the draft resolution which has been circulated to Honourable Members. Your Excellency, as President of this Honourable Council, has given permission for its introduction with something less than the usual period of notice."

"The proposals contained in the draft resolution were discussed by the Taxation Committee yesterday and met with the approval of that body. Thereafter, in order to bring the resolution to the necessary resolution could be introduced into this Honourable Council. I submitted to Your Excellency an Order under the Revenue Protection Ordinance bringing the new duties into force with effect from 9 a.m. this morning. That Order remains in force until this Honourable Council has dealt with the resolution now before it."

Rate Doubled
"The proposals contained in the resolution represent in the main a doubling of the Empire rate of duty on liquor with corresponding increase in the full rate of duty so that the margin between the two rates is maintained. This sounds very formidable but in actual fact it will only bring the duty on Whisky to \$5.20 a bottle and on Brandy of foreign origin to \$6.00 a bottle."

"It is the considered opinion of this Government that these increases in duty can and should in the main be absorbed by importers and retailers, and that the prices of most sorts of liquor to the public should not be altered. A meeting will be held between the Price Controller and importers and retailers with a view to achieving this end."

"It was felt that Beer would not stand the same increase. In duty as other forms of liquor. Malt, hops and bottles are hard to come by and can only be obtained in limited quantities at high prices. Both locally-made and imported beer is expensive locally, although prices are controlled, and the conclusion was reached that only a 25 per cent increase in duty would be justified."

Tobacco Duties
"I now come to the duties on tobacco, which represent an increase of 50 per cent though the duty on cigars not manufactured in the Empire has been increased by 75 per cent. This will to some extent assist local cigar factories when they are re-established, but as in the case of liquor the Government is of the opinion that the increases in duty on tobacco"

CHIANG'S POLITICAL TWILIGHT?

Nanking, Nov. 28.
In presenting the revised draft constitution to the National Assembly today, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who has guided the destinies of China for the past 20 years, said that the occasion marked the twilight of his political career.

The Generalissimo, addressing more than a thousand delegates, said: "This presentation of the draft constitution to the National Assembly marks the end of the responsibility of the National Government and the beginning of government by the people."

Now that the National Assembly had taken over the responsibility of government, he considered his political career at an end.

He added: "I am 60 years old now. In the past 13 years since Dr. Sun Yat-sen's death, I have been entrusted with the responsibility of Government. Now that the National Assembly has taken over, I have no more ambitions."

Handing over the revised draft constitution to Dr. Hu Shih, Chancellor of the Peiping National University and former Ambassador to the United States, who presided, Generalissimo Chiang in a 20-minute much applauded speech stressed two important points, which had to be observed if the constitution was to work satisfactorily.

"Firstly, those who exercise the powers of government must be able to protect these powers which belong to the people. They must not encroach upon the rights of the people from whom they derive their governing powers."

SUMMER TIME ENDING

Hong Kong Summer Time ends on Sunday, December 1, with standard time coming into operation at 3.30 a.m. Residents should put their clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. One effect of returning to Hong Kong standard time will be to provide an additional hour's sleep on Sunday.

Because of the return to standard time, ZBW will, starting on Saturday, December 1, remain on the air until 11.10 p.m., every Saturday night to relay BBC broadcast announcements which are made weekly at that time.

Guardsman Swam To Shore

Jerusalem, Nov. 28.
Official sources said yesterday that two Jewish refugees, fatally injured in Tuesday's clash between Jews and British troops at the start of the disembarkation of passengers from the illegal immigrant ship "Lochita" at Haifa, were buried secretly yesterday "to prevent a possible disorderly demonstration."

A military spokesman also announced that the first report that a Grenadier Guardsman was missing "and feared dead" were erroneous. The soldier, knocked into the water by a five-pound tin of meat, managed to get ashore safely.

The Army said that one of the Jewish casualties was wounded fatally by gunfire, believed to be a stray shot from volleys fired over the heads of the rioting Jews. The second victim died of injuries received when he leaped from the refugee ship to the deck of a tug.

In the meantime, the three British ships to which the Jews were transferred while waiting for the untangling of the legal confusion over their future, moved outside the harbour and are now anchored in Haifa Bay.

Statements that the tins of goods thrown by the Jews were UNRRA supplies and that injuries to troops were caused by the tins came from both military and police officers. In charge of the transportation, Associated Press.

HIS FIRST CONCERN

Singapore, Nov. 28.
Malaya's new GOC-in-C, Lieutenant General Alexander Salway, told an interviewer that his first concern is the welfare of the soldier and he asked civilians to be patient over the return of civilian property still requisitioned by the Army.

"I am certainly not going to put any of the soldiers under me into places that would be objectionable to them," he said. "They have had six years of living under the worst conditions, they have suffered greater hardships than the civilians, they have fought this war for us and they are not going to be set down in the bush now."

Communist Demand In France

Paris, Nov. 28.
The Central Committee of the French Communist Party today demanded the Premiership forthwith for its leader, M. Maurice Thorez, rejecting the plan favoured by other parties to allow the present cabinet under M. Georges Bidault to carry on until January.

The Central Committee also offered to give all active Socialist Party members agreeing to join the Communist Party the same rights and standing as those they enjoyed in the Socialist Party.

Socialists willing to turn Communist would have the same claim to executive posts in the Communist Party as if they had been members from the time they joined the Socialist Party.—Reuter.

"Secondly, those who exercise the powers of government must have a thorough understanding of these powers lest they step upon the rights of the people."—Reuter.

Big Four Agree At Last

Lake Success, Nov. 28.
The Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers agreed last night on all questions relating to the statute of Trieste—except the proposals on a free port and some economic conditions.

Plans for the withdrawal of troops for elections in the free territory, and for a provisional council of government were among the subjects on which an agreement was reached.

The United Nations Trusteeship Committee last night debated the application of South Africa to incorporate Southwest Africa to which the United States submitted a resolution opposing the application. The Indian delegate proposed international trusteeship for Southwest Africa. The Soviet representative, Boris Stein, opposed the incorporation, saying that mandated territories should be accorded either complete self-government or trusteeship. The discussion was adjourned.—Reuter.

MOSLEMS GOING TO LONDON

New Delhi, Nov. 28.
Mohammed Ali Jinnah, President of the Muslim League, and Liaquat Ali Khan, Muslim Finance Minister in the Interim Government, will be flying with the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, this weekend to the talks called by the British Government in London.

While the Moslems have accepted the invitation to discuss the threatened breakdown in India's coalition government, the predominantly Hindu Congress Party and Sikhs have formally declined.

It is believed that Congress contends that there is nothing to be discussed or clarified since the Party had already accepted the British Government plan for India.—Reuter.

Laski's Duel With Eminent K.C.

London, Nov. 27.
Mr. Harold J. Laski, Professor of Political Science at London University, again entered the witness-box today in the second day of his suit against the Newark Advertiser Company Limited, publishers of the "Newark Advertiser," and its editor, Mr. C. E. Parlyb, for alleged libel.

Sir Patrick Hastings, one of the two King's Counsel appearing for the defence, resumed his cross-examination by reading extracts from one of Professor Laski's books. Professor Laski is complaining that the report of a meeting in Newark during last year's general election campaign inaccurately implied that he advocated a revolution by violence.

The defendants denied the meaning of the words complained of and pleaded that they were fair and accurate reports of a public meeting on a matter of public concern, published without malice. During yesterday's hearing before a special jury in the High Court, Professor Laski denied using the words complained of.

Professor Laski, who was last year's chairman of the Labour Party, today accused Sir Patrick Hastings of "fantastic rhetorical exaggeration." Hastings had read an extract from his book saying that in the last century no influence was more persuasive than that of religious leaders. Wesley in "inducing the masses of England to accept the grim discipline of new factories in return for dubious emancipation of unproved and unprovable eternal bliss."

"Did you not mean by that?" Sir Patrick asked "that Wesley bamboozled workmen to go into factories?"

Most Vital
Laski: "That is a fantastic rhetorical exaggeration. I mean as is well-known by all historians that at the time of the industrial revolution, Wesleyanism deflected the sense of"

BOYCOTT OF HONG KONG?

Shanghai, Nov. 28.
Local authoritative Chinese sources revealed today that the spokesman of the committee representing public bodies in Canton announced there today that they would start a boycott against Hong Kong on Dec. 1 as a protest against the incident in which a Hong Kong policeman was alleged to have kicked to death a Chinese peanut vendor.

The spokesman is reported to have said that the public bodies would boycott the British Trade Mission, scheduled to arrive in Canton on Dec. 3 and mentioned specifically that ships from Hong Kong would not be unloaded in Canton nor would ships bound for Hong Kong be loaded in Canton.—Reuter.

Soviet Accuses China

Nanking, Nov. 28.
Serious charges that Chinese local military and civil authorities inflicted "unbearable conditions on Soviet railway employees, who were subjected to 'beatings and other lawless acts' in the Mukden sector, were contained in a bluntly worded statement issued by the Press Department of the Soviet Embassy today.

The statement added that all Soviet railwaymen are leaving for Russia in the next few days. The Soviet statement, which asserted that the official Central News Agency had "distorted the actual reason" which made the Soviet Embassy decide to repatriate the Soviet railway employees, said: "The return of Soviet railwaymen to the Soviet Union was not caused by their personal consideration—neither by bad health conditions of some of them nor by their financial distress—but by the fact that while remaining at their respective posts, they were not able to carry on their duty."

"During the last few months, unbearable conditions not only for their work but even for their stay in Mukden were created by the fact that not only by the Chinese authorities."

Baeten-Up
"Much data are at the disposal of the Embassy and did the local civil and military authorities not offer the Soviet railwaymen due protection but on the contrary many Soviet employees fell victims to beatings and other lawless acts, which took place with the participation of members of the Chinese Army and police."

"A considerable part of the Soviet railwaymen found themselves in difficult material conditions, owing to the fact that their private property have been taken away by local officials or looted by Chinese Army servicemen."

The statement, denying the Central News Agency's assertion that 200 Soviet workers are remaining in Mukden, added that all Soviet railwaymen are leaving for Russia in the next few days.—Reuter.

THE WEATHER

The anticyclone centring over North China continues to intensify and expand. A low pressure trough extends from South Japan across North Formosa and Kwangtung Province. Pressure is low over the equatorial region. Today's forecast—Moderate E winds, freshening and backing. Weather cloudy but improving. Colder temperatures.

Yesterday's weather:
Maximum: 75.6 deg. Fah.
Minimum: 60.5 deg. Fah.
Max. Rel. Humidity: 88%.
Sunshine: 2.9 hours.
Rainfall: Nil.

ON OTHER PAGES

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Urgent Appeal for Nurses.
Left-Hand Drive to Continue.
Page Five
Navy Quits Alex.
Page Eight
Debate on Demop.
Home and Local Sport.

EUROPEANS IN ASSAULT CASE

Richard William Dedear claimed at Kowloon Court yesterday that Mrs. Bertha Pears had first kicked him in the groin, then on the shin and, as he tried to summon police assistance, snatched the telephone receiver out of his hand and hit him on the head with it.

Dedear was giving evidence against Mrs. Pears on a charge of assault at 4, Knight Street, Kowloon Tong, in the early hours of the morning of Oct. 17.

Witness claimed that Mrs. Pears had returned to the flat with a party of soldiers about 1.30 a.m. and he got out of bed two hours later to tell them, "Look here! You better go. If you don't I propose calling the police to stop this noise."

Mrs. Pears then rushed at him and kicked him, Dedear said. He ran downstairs to the telephone. As he picked up the receiver Mrs. Pears continued kicking him, hit him with her fists, snatched the receiver from him and hit him on the head.

Three soldiers then appeared on the landing and he appealed to them to hold her while he telephoned. Mrs. Pears broke loose and assaulted him again, Dedear said. He left the house at this and went to Kowloon City Police Station.

Room In Darkness

He returned an hour later to find the room in darkness. A Chinese police constable knocked at the door. There was no reply and the constable drew the curtain at the door and shone his torch in. He peered in himself, Dedear said, and saw that Mrs. Pears was still in the room with one of the soldiers.

As Mrs. Pears did not reply to the knock, he decided to send the constable back and made a fuller report of the incident the following morning.

Replying to a question from the Magistrate, Mr. Horace Lo, Dedear said that he did not hit back at Mrs. Pears at all.

In reply to questions from Mr. M. A. da Silva, appearing for Mrs. Pears, Dedear admitted that there was bad feeling between him and Mrs. Pears, but claimed that this arose from the assault and had not existed before that.

Objection To Questions

On Mr. da Silva continuing to cross-examine Dedear in connection with a case pending before the Tenancy Tribunal, witness objected to the line of examination, saying that the tenancy action had nothing to do with the assault case.

Mr. Lo upheld witness's objection, whereupon Mr. da Silva said that he was attacking the credibility of witness and that, in fairness to Mrs. Pears, he should be allowed to proceed on this line of questioning.

If he was not permitted to continue this line of cross-examination, Mr. da Silva said, he would ask leave to withdraw.

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 ABOUT THE
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RIPOSTE

When, the other day, we smiled at the Taxation Committee for imposing a consumption tax on intoxicating liquors instead of increasing the excise duty, we hardly expected to find that the Government had a reserve card up its sleeve. Effective as from 9 a.m. yesterday, the duties on spirits and tobacco have now been substantially increased, and there is, after all, no special dispensation in favour of he who imbibes his whisky at home. Government has, in fact, gone much farther than the most pessimistic anticipations and there are few who will not consider the consequences as demanding the exercise of fortitude on the one hand, and a lighter touch, when pouring the evening tot, with the other. How many will, at the same time, derive the rich inner satisfaction going with the thought that he may possibly be subscribing to the idea of better pay for the Junior Clerical Service, it is unwise to conjecture too closely. Enthusiasm for a square deal is not invariably matched by any parallel zeal when it results in a demand for direct contribution. The official spokesman has urged that it might easily be painless extraction, implying that importers and retailers in a fine spirit of tolerance may recognise that the few are better able to bear the burden than the many. Our own perhaps simpler mind suspects that this rather tempting proposition contains a catch in it somewhere, and we are far from rivaling Mr. Follows in his capacity to voyage on such alluring seas of thought. To disprove the more customary theory that wholesale wine and spirit merchants and such institutions as the British American Tobacco Company are in the trade with an aim and a purpose beyond that of merely seeing to the wise distribution of that which cheers and that which satisfies, justifies no doubt a beguiling phrase or two, from which no harm is likely to emerge. "The customer has, however, usually learned to his cost that the blandishments of the Council Chamber rarely reach into the inner recesses of the offices in which these vital decisions are made, and infers, that the most likely reward for gratuitously providing the information would be a snub for his pains.

War Crime Policy Criticised

Singapore, Nov. 27. The entire system of war crimes trials in Southeast Asia was described as "inefficient" in today's issue of the Singapore "Malayan Tribune," which criticised the policy of trying serious cases but releasing minor suspects.

Quoting the official review of the work of the war crimes courts which said that the number of suspects had been reduced from 9,000 in June to 4,500 today, the "Tribune" added: "In ten months, the courts have dealt with 518 of the accused, of whom 445 have been convicted and 182 sentenced to death."

"It will be surprising if, in the end more than 800 of the accused pass through the courts—less than one in ten of the number arrested."

"The explanation behind the 'new policy' is a simple one. The whole system of war crimes trials in Southeast Asia has been inefficient, so that finally there has been no option but to proceed against a few and let many go." The official review declared that it would have been impracticable to bring 9,000 suspects to trial in a "reasonable time."

In the middle of the night of 19/20 September, 1944, one thousand five hundred airmen under guard, trapped from Colchester North Station to Berechurch, a distance of some four miles, and were brought to a halt in a wide field enclosed by barbed wire. The night was very dark and the ground squelched with mud. There was no cover, and tents had to be obtained from a supply dump a short distance away. When dawn broke, the men went about setting up the tents and drawing tired rations. It was a cheerless scene; the men were wet and dependent; some thankful they were out of the hell that was Normandy; others highly indignant to find that everything had not been "laid on" for them; all wondering what captivity would be like.

For these were German prisoners, the first large body of men captured around Caen to be brought to the Eastern Command area. The following night they were joined by another 1,000 and by 24 September, over 6,000 of Hitler's Westwall defenders were encamped around Berechurch. Among them were men who had participated in the 1940 Blitzkrieg, sung "We March Against England" in the Paris cafes, and had been scheduled to land in Britain after the Luftwaffe had disposed of the Few.

Not New

It was no new experience for historic Colchester to have alien troops in and around its Roman walls. Through all the years, its story is one of marching armies, beleaguered garrisons, fortified camps and confined prisoners. After three centuries of Roman occupation, the Saxon and Anglo brought fire and slaughter to the city; later, the Dane's Black Army, with double-headed axe and sharp arrow, massacred the entire townspeople. After Crecy, French prisoners of rank were held in the castle; Dutch soldiers, Scotsmen, religious malcontents and State prisoners have been imprisoned there at different periods. With the coming of the Hanoverian monarchs, even German mercenaries have been stationed there. Records show that in 1809, four squadrons of German cavalry were employed to suppress a rising of the militia at Ely, and there was a great outcry in the country when these foreigners were ordered to flog the leaders. More recently, when British troops left for the Crimea, troops from Hesse, known locally as the German legion, were quartered in Colchester.

Two Years

Two years have passed since that wet night when the first remnants of the Wehrmacht reached Berechurch. The desolate meadow has become, in the words of Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, first German from Germany to visit 186 POW Camp, a "gilded cage." The tents have given way to rows of Nissen huts and brick buildings; concrete roads run where once muddy paths meandered; there are ornamental flower beds and vegetable gardens; it is all neat and trim. The airmen, dependent men themselves are changed; despite the barbed wire, the sense of frustration and injury, many of these men have learned much which was always closed to them; they find a new hope in the future.

And now they are on their way home to participate in the reconstruction of a new and, we hope, a better and peaceful Germany. The Government recently announced its scheme for the accelerated repatriation of the 394,000 Germans held in Britain, a decision which has meant much at Berechurch, for 186 is the Base Transit Camp for the whole of Eastern Command, where men for repatriation are collected from other Commands, and every week 1,000 men pass through its gates on the road back.

Priority

Priority in repatriation is given to those prisoners who were known to be anti-Nazis before 1939 or who have shown since a "positive democratic attitude" and are likely to play a useful part in the rehabilitation of Germany. For the most part such men are controlling prisoner groups or occupy other responsible positions. Next highest priority goes to workers, such as timber workers and miners, particularly those who have volunteered to work in the mines. A certain number get preferential treatment on compassionate grounds, and thereafter, the general criterion is length of service spent in captivity. Only those men whose homes are in the British Zone can at present

be sent, but agreement is being sought from the other controlling powers in Germany for the reception in their respective areas of men who were domiciled there. Unbending Nazis are not in the running at all; nor are high-ranking officers, whether or not they have political leanings. All told, some 15,000 men will go back every month five times as many as in the past. The dispatch of all the prisoners will take 26 months under these arrangements, but it is possible that it will be speeded up if sufficient regular shipping can be organised.

By PETER LOVEGROVE

Hard Cases
 186 Camp does not only cater for these transient guests. It is the largest camp in Eastern Command and also holds a number of men who cannot work outside for a variety of reasons; some who are awaiting

trial, some who are awaiting repatriation. The camp is a well-organised institution, but it is possible that it will be speeded up if sufficient regular shipping can be organised.

DAKOTA CRASHES

Guatemala City, Nov. 23. Twenty-two persons were killed when a LASCAS plane crashed near Guatemala City on Tuesday, it was disclosed yesterday. LASCAS is a subsidiary of Pan American World Airways. The plane, a DC-3, was en route to San Jose, Costa Rica. — Associated Press.

ing distribution to labour-units; hard cases of Nazis labelled "Blacks"; a few in protected custody who may be arraigned as war criminals; and a number of officers of all ranks, from subalterns to a major-general. Total population over 8,000.

Prisoners do all the camp maintenance in this trim, well-laid, town-within-a-town. They bake their own bread, repair their own boots, do their own laundry, run their own shows and produce their own newspaper. The huts, shower baths and drying rooms, and the roads were all built by German labour. "We're very proud of the results," said the Lagerführer, a mild-looking grey-haired man of 50 from Münster, who served in the two world wars and sixteen years in the Reichswehr before being put in the bag in Normandy.

The men are most enthusiastic about their entertainment halls. The "Kleinkunst Bühne," variety hall, was managed by a professional artist who has been repatriated.

Christian Teaching
 One of the most important features of the camp is its religious instruction. There is a theological college, where suit-

able men are trained for the Roman Catholic Church; there, they learn what Christianity means; the structure of the church, fundamental principles of social life, the family and the state, as well as mathematics, physics, biology, German art and philosophy, ancient and modern languages. Only 40 students turned up at the first lesson in March 1945, but by July the number had risen to 147, and now there are several hundreds attending the six-week courses.

I also saw two chapels, beautifully and simply decorated; in one, an artist was painting on an old piece of canvas and a home-made model, a biblical scene which is destined for the main altar.

The thirst for knowledge is not confined to religious affairs. Since May 1945, when a school opened, men have received technical and agricultural training, and learned English and other foreign languages. Discussion groups are held regularly; lecturers come from universities and the Political Intelligence Department; the men can also go to the re-educational training centre at Wilton Park, where they get a course in the democratic way of life.

Cannot See

The value of these open forums is obvious. The men are interested in them; they ask pertinent questions; they want to know how the British machine ticks. It would be idle to pretend that they are being converted to democracy; they have been part of a rigid machine in which individual thinking was discouraged for too long, and they have the natural and inevitable bias to discount much of what they hear as propaganda. No doubt they cannot see Germany's real background of the fearful iniquities committed by their leaders and so many of their comrades. No doubt they have little sense of their guilt, and they blame Britain not only for the barbed wire around them, but also for the destruction of their cities and the misery that has befallen their people; for having given guarantees to Poland; even, in some cases, for not having shown long before 1939 that we meant business. "Democracy," to men who are accustomed to carry out orders unquestioningly and methodically, seems a slow, cumbersome, and unconvincing affair. But after all, many of these men have been Nazis because they had little or no opportunity of being anything else, and their willingness to try to think and discuss objectively and above all to learn about others' ways may bear fruit one day. It is too early to tell now.

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

READ THE HEAD CLEARLY

It will pay a declarer, on all occasions, to analyze the opening lead and figure out as best he can just what each defender has in the suit chosen, also why he picked that suit instead of a different one. There are combinations of the cards which make it possible, occasionally, to place an amazing number of the hidden pastboards, though only one has been seen.

S Q 7
 H K J 9
 D Q J 9 8 6
 C A K 5
 S 8 5 2
 H A 4 2
 D 4 5 2
 C Q J 5 4
 S A J 10 6 4
 H 8 6 5 3
 D K 5
 C 7 2
 S K 9 8
 H Q 10 7
 D A 10 7
 C 10 9 8 6

(Dealer: North, North-South vulnerable.)
 North East South West
 1D Pass 1NT Pass
 2NT Pass 3NT

When West led the spade 4, South almost automatically played the 7 from dummy, and East was smart enough to hold up his A, using the 10. A frail to take that and make himself vulnerable in the suit. South played low. East returned the 8 to the Q, which blanketed South's K. Through a successful finesse, five diamonds were scored and two high clubs, but that made only eight tricks. When South lost the lead, then to the heart A, West had a little spade to return to East,

whose A dropped the K, permitting him to finish with spade tricks and set the contract.

South could have read that lead exactly. If it were a fourth-best, West would have had the A-J-10 for his higher cards, and the J would have been the sound lead. Hence it was not a fourth-best, but the top of probably a trebleton, with the A-J-10 and two, two smaller ones in the East. Such being the case, the Q was the right play from dummy. If East ducked this, South would be assured of two spade tricks. If East used the A on it, as he would, South could hold up the K for the third round. Hence he would lose no more spade tricks, and would make his contract if West had the heart A, as he did. Success with the diamond finesse would have enabled him to score an extra trick.

Tomorrow's Problem

S 10 2
 H K J
 D A K 10 9 8 6 2
 C 19 7
 S 4
 H A Q 8 7 5
 D 9 7 3
 C J 6 5 4
 S A Q 8 7
 H 10 9 4 2
 D 4
 C K Q 9 8
 S 4
 H A Q 8 7 5
 D 9 7 3
 C J 6 5 4
 S A Q 8 7
 H 10 9 4 2
 D 4
 C K Q 9 8

(Dealer: North, East-West vulnerable.)
 What desperate chance can South try, seeking 3-NT? Trumps, after West leads the heart 7 to the J, East having made a spade bid?

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Of course I understand the nature of an oath! I'm your caddy, ain't I?"

An Open Letter To Lady Cripps

Dear Lady Cripps—On October 4 you set out from England on a goodwill mission to China to see the results of nearly two million pounds of British voluntary aid to this country. Tomorrow, (Saturday) you will start on the return journey and soon will tell the people at home what you have seen and heard. I wonder how your picture of Hong Kong and Chinese relief, as it is now, will be painted to those in England who have supported the effort financially and fundamentally for over four years.

May I suggest you tell them this, Lady Cripps?—In Hong Kong there is plenty of everything for all. There are many Chinese who made large fortunes and others who became comparatively rich during the occupation, and after the liberation. Yet there are hundreds of others who are poverty stricken and starving and the main reason is because the wealthy Chinese will not lift a finger to help the impoverished section of its own community.

From morning till night the Colony's roads feel the weight of dozens of expensive and streamlined limousines while the beggars, the "cumeahaw" children, the destitute and the old.

Those of the Chinese who have money live well in our Colony, indeed they live like lords, domestically and socially, yet they least of all are tolerant of the plight of their own resourceless people.

The British Government in Hong Kong does its utmost in aiding where the Chinese fail to tread, but there ought to be more, much more cooperation in the shape of dollar bills from the wealthy. But then it seems they are very content to leave it all to us.

Your obvious wish to help the needy and to promote more friendly feelings between Britain and China is very well understood and appreciated, Lady Cripps, but it is a little disconcerting to know that British families may soon pour more hard-earned cash, which they earned in the factories under the stress of war into the laps of poverty stricken Chinese while the moneybags of their countrymen remain tightly closed.

Compare the standards of living in Hong Kong and England today and any intended voluntary aid from Britain here would promote a ridiculous situation. As you know, the British housewife's biggest and most important worry now is food. To her, the sight of a Hong Kong grocery store, with its shelves of unrationed and edible goods would have without exaggeration, a bright dreamlike quality.

The eggs, the bacon, meat, fish, fruit and nuts and all the things that they have done without so patiently for so long in England, is within reach of all who have the money to buy in Hong Kong. But the people at home are not fully aware of the bulk of foodstuffs stored in several parts of the world.

Ask them instead of giving to save their money to buy food from our exporting Dominions and America, just as China is doing. And tell them in England to issue more, very many more, details to the countries almost unaffected by the war about how they are living at

home—one and a half years after peace was declared in Europe. For just as in England they do not know much about life in Hong Kong, the rest of the world is not yet fully aware of Britain's continued privations, its stringent food rationing and its almost complete lack of "luxury" commodities.

Before you return to your Fund's London office, Lady Cripps, why not make a tour of the Colony's public restaurants, hotels, shops and business premises all frequented by the wealthy and observe the casual air with which they rid themselves of dollars in the easy assurance that they have a great many more.

China is a beautiful country, and its hills rise proudly up to meet clear blue skies, but its people are filled with an almost beligerently national feeling. Britain's policy, together with the rest of the world, seems to be appeasement on every score. But I fail to see why poorly filled coffers at home should be emptied even more for the rehabilitation programme of a country which is not much more impoverished than our own.

M. B.

Taking No Chances

Sioux City, Iowa, Nov. 27.

Lee Moore, a former slave who has attained the unusual age of 106, is taking no chances. When he dies, the negro will have a plot of ground ready for his burial and a headstone to mark his grave.

He came to Sioux City recently for that purpose and invested his last \$200 for the lot and stone.

Moore carries a Manila paper pouch in his pocket containing receipts for his purchases and to make sure instructions for his burial do not become illegible the envelope contains a metal plate on which have been printed his last wishes and a photo of the negro.

Moore was born in Buenos Aires, he said, on July 12, 1840. At the age of 17, when "Buchanan was President," he came to the United States. Because he was unable to pay his passage, the ship's officers sold him as a slave.

The thin old man who wants to bury himself "without help from any county or state," is in search of light work. He was refused a State pension because he had papers in his pocket showing he was the owner of property worth \$300. But that property consisted of the headstone and burial lot. Associated Press.

Ottawa, Nov. 23.
 Contracts were completed today for Canadian construction of \$35,732,625 worth of shipping for the French Government in the next two years. The contract embraces 18 freighters and 140 cargo barges. Associated Press.

LEGAL BATTLES OVER JEWS

Petition Submitted For Writ Of Habeas Corpus

Fate Of 4,000 To Be Decided

Jerusalem, Nov. 27. Several hundred Jewish spectators were unable to gain admittance to the heavily-guarded court room in Jerusalem today when the legal battle to decide the fate of the latest batch of illegal Jewish immigrants opened in the High Court of Justice.

The small court was crowded long before the three British judges, led by the Chief Justice, Sir William FitzGerald, took their seats on the bench. Mr. Edward Goitein, Jewish barrister, submitted a petition asking the court to issue writs of Habeas Corpus "releasing 4,000 immigrants from unlawful custody."

"LIFE" BANNED

Calcutta, Nov. 27. The publication of a picture of a dead body of a person killed in Calcutta after the August riots was the reason for the Bengal Government ban on the September 30 issue of "Life" magazine. According to the Bengal Government, the publication of this picture constituted "a prejudicial report."—Reuter.

ELOPED WITH A PARATROOPER?

San Francisco, Nov. 28. The authorities of the Western States are hunting for Geraldine Hegenberger, 18, who is missing on the eve of her scheduled departure for Okinawa to join her father, Major-General Albert F. Hegenberger. The girl's mother said that she believed her daughter had eloped with a recently-discharged paratrooper, James Scherer, who arrived in San Francisco on the same day as the Hegenbergers, and who could not be located in his hotel room on Tuesday night. The girl's mother said she had attempted to discourage Scherer's attentions to her daughter and had a stormy scene after which the girl failed to keep an afternoon appointment and failed to return to the hotel in the evening.—Associated Press.

MARRIED A WANDERER

Albany, N.Y., Nov. 28. A New York State Supreme Court Justice holds that a woman cannot have her marriage annulled just because she fails to reform her husband. To grant an annulment under such circumstances would be "nothing short of approving trial marriage," Justice Isaac Broekstein ruled, in dismissing an action brought by Mrs. Alfred Hillhouse, mother of two children. Mrs. Hillhouse, Broekstein said, was admittedly aware before her marriage that her prospective husband "was in the habit of wandering off for parts unknown at different times" so

NO PARTITION WANTED

Hamburg, Nov. 27. The Munster Free Democratic Party Congress today passed a resolution expressing opposition to all attempts aimed at the partition of Schleswig-Holstein, the British News Service in Germany reports. "We demand a united Schleswig-Holstein because we do not want enmity between Germans and Danes," said the resolution, which declared that the partition proposed by the Danish Foreign Minister was "contrary to the interests of efficient administration and to the old-established rights of the province. Partition would only hamper the peaceful democratic development."—Reuter.

Rumanian Elections Protest

Washington, Nov. 26. The U.S. Government today refused recognition of the results of the Rumanian elections and accused the Rumanian Government of using terrorism and manipulation of electoral registers in conducting last week's polling.

Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson said in a statement: "Nothing is further from the fact," he declared. Mr. Griffin added that what the court had to decide was whether the immigrants now held in custody were being held lawfully from an Order-in-Council made in 1937, which empowered the High Commissioner, among other things, to make "deportation orders."

The Solicitor-General said: "The High Commissioner can make regulations or laws through this Order as seems fit to maintain the security of the country."

Mr. Gurney, Chief Secretary to the Palestine Government, stated in evidence that illegal immigrant ships were being brought into Palestine territorial waters so that anyone who could prove that he or she was proceeding to Palestine legally could come forward. Mr. Goitein, referring to the detention order issued yesterday by the High Commissioner in respect of immigrants aboard the "Lochita," said: "This document decides the fate of more than 4,000 people. It is not a dead letter of the law."

He submitted that it was unlawful to take illegal immigrants on "prison ships" outside the three-mile territorial zone, keep them imprisoned on the high seas, and detain them again on Cyprus. He argued that jurisdiction of the British naval, military and police personnel did not extend to high seas.

"All this can be stopped by Habeas Corpus," Mr. Goitein said.

After a session lasting four hours the court rose to consider its judgment.—Reuter.

TRIESTE TALKS PROGRESS

New York, Nov. 27. The Council of Foreign Ministers are believed to have made some progress on the outstanding points in the Trieste statute at the three and a half hour meeting after luncheon at the apartment of Mr. James Byrnes, Secretary of State, yesterday.

Mr. Byrnes is understood to have suggested the holding of "top secret" meetings of this kind so as to avoid the day to day press reports which might tend to give undue prominence to the concessions made by M. Molotov.

The Council of Ministers agreed not to divulge the details of yesterday's meeting.—Reuter.

TURK MINISTERS' TOUR

Istanbul, Nov. 27. The Turkish Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence arrived here from Ankara today on their way to Thrace where they will inspect the Turkish army garrisons and discuss aviation, near the Turkish-Greek frontier, where Communist bands have lately been reported active.—Reuter.

Economic Conference Proposals

London, Nov. 27. The London Economic Conference has made no less than 23 recommendations regarding inter-Governmental commodity agreements.

These mostly follow the familiar lines though there are a few surprises. One is that member countries should accept the decision of the International Trade Organization on whether their continued participation in the existing commodity agreements is consistent with their obligations. This would apparently apply to the existing international wheat, tea and sugar schemes. The rubber and tin schemes have already ended, and even the wheat, tea and sugar schemes are in abeyance. The steps for making a new

British Proposal Adopted

Lake Success, N.Y. Nov. 27. The United Nations Political Committee adopted by a vote of 33 to 17, with two abstentions, the first paragraph of the British resolution, which "considers that items four and five on the agenda (troops census and armaments, respectively) are concerned with two aspects of the same question of reduction and regulation of armament."

The Committee adopted by 36 votes to 12, with four abstentions, the second paragraph of the British resolution, which says "as the first step in the study of this question and to assist in the implementation of Article 43, the Committee propose that the Assembly recommend all members of the United Nations to furnish the following information to the Secretary-General for communication to the Security Council and other members of the United Nations for publication."

The Committee adopted without opposition the next British proposal, which deals with reports of armed forces in the territory of members of the United Nations. M. Molotov, of Russia, said he had no objection to insertion in this clause of the words "including the military type of formation."

The Committee also adopted, without opposition, the two points originated by the Soviet delegation of including in the reports of forces in ex-enemy states all information regarding air and naval bases.

The Russian delegate interrupted the voting on that part of the British resolution asking for a census of all troops at home and abroad to propose an amendment asking the United Nations "to reveal the nature of armaments, such as atomic bombs, rocket weapons, flying bombs and others."

Objections. Both Mr. Philip Noel-Baker (Britain) and Senator Tom Connally (United States) objected to M. Molotov's new amendment at such a late stage in the voting.

The Committee adopted the British proposal to include in the troops census home territories by 40 votes to ten, with two abstentions.

The Political Committee decided by 25 votes to 19, with seven abstentions, to accept the United States amendment to the British proposal making the effective date for the reports December 15.—Reuter.

Surprise Amendment. Lake Success, Nov. 28. Opposing the British proposal that troop data submitted to the United Nations should be verified in the spot by a United Nations inspection agency, M. Molotov had noted that the United States had opposed it and added: "The Soviet Union will accept any decision taken by the United Kingdom and the United States. If they are both agreeable to control, the Soviet Union will agree to this."

Egypt offered a surprise amendment which would put the General Assembly on record against the maintenance of foreign troops in any country without its consent. This was believed to be aimed at Britain, but Philip Noel-Baker said that Britain had no objection to the amendment.—Associated Press.

Claim Rejected. Lake Success, N.Y. Nov. 27. The United States today rejected the Soviet claim that the United Nations Security Council should have control of fortifications in strategic trusteeship territories.

The United States delegate, Mr. John D. Doolittle, said in the Trusteeship Committee: "The

NAVY LEAVES ALEXANDRIA

London, Nov. 28. An Admiralty spokesman announced yesterday that all Naval personnel, with the exception of four radio operators, have been withdrawn from Alexandria, Britain's biggest wartime Mediterranean Naval base. The spokesman added that evacuation has been taking place for some time and that the movement of installations, men, material and ships was completed yesterday. He was unable to say immediately how many men were involved.

The evacuation, he declared, was in accordance with a British undertaking to Egypt to withdraw all military and naval forces from Cairo, Alexandria and the Nile Valley by March 31 next. The British delegation negotiating the revision of the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936 announced on May 7 that British forces would move from Alexandria, Cairo and the Nile Valley.

Eight days later the withdrawal began and it has been going on ever since, the official stated. British troops left the citadel in Cairo on August 9, after the famous fortress had been garrisoned by Empire forces for 64 years. They withdrew to Egypt's canal zone.

Most of the British warships based in Alexandria during the war had already been withdrawn before yesterday's operations began. They moved to Malta, Cyprus and Haifa. Ships that have been moved since May included one aircraft carrier, four cruisers, one destroyer and three submarines, the spokesman declared. Alexandria was first used as a British Naval base when Italy invaded Abyssinia in October, 1939. But the 1936 treaty between Britain and Egypt ruled that Alexandria was to cease being a garrison town, and that it could be used as a Naval base by Britain only with Egypt's special permission.

In the years immediately before the war, the harbour was improved with dry-dock accommodation and the installation of a huge floating dock with a lifting capacity of 60,000 tons. Alexandria was recognized as Britain's principal and safest wartime base in the Mediterranean during the second world war. Less than 2,000 miles from Brindisi, nearest Italian port, it was a common target for Axis bombers based variously in Italy, Crete, Tripoli and Rhodes Island.—Associated Press.

commodity agreement are to be: 1. A study group. 2. A conference. 3. Formation of a governing body. Other provisions are full publicity measures to expand consumption where practicable, consideration of shortages as well as surpluses, equal representation for importing and exporting.—Reuter.

Chiang's Advice To Assembly

Nanking, Nov. 27. Reliable sources say that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek told the 700 delegates to the National Assembly "to vote for a draft constitution as revised by the political consultative conference."

These sources interpreted Chiang's action as a heavy blow to the powerful Kuomintang clique, which favours another draft. Replying to Communist charges that the Constitutional Assembly represented only the Kuomintang, Party Information Minister Ling Tso-hsiang said the lack of heat in the delegates were registered as independents and 10 per cent as members of the Young China Party and Social Democrats.

He said only 42 per cent were registered as Kuomintang members.—Associated Press.

energy as the first and vital step towards more general limitation of armaments. We have, however, the gap which lies between great hopes and their practical realization. The Soviet Union also must be aware of that gap. We are glad to recognise there is now some evidence of cooperation within the Military Staff Committee, but progress is painfully slow.—Reuter.

You May Bend; You Won't Break

Washington, Nov. 27. The United States Army's top psychiatrist says the new strains that the atom age has placed on the human mind may cause many people to "bend" toward mental illness, but not necessarily "break."

Dr. William Menninger, former Brigadier-General, was director of the neuropsychiatric division of the Surgeon-General's office. He said in an interview that there is a great difference between "bending" mentally and "breaking" so that great increases in insanity are not inevitable. One of the major preventives, he said, is strong public leadership in which the masses of people can have great confidence.

Dr. Menninger in civilian life remains a chief consultant in neuropsychiatry to the Surgeon-General. Here is how he diagnoses America's postwar mental health problem: "1. An atom-bomb war, or a war in which destruction would be on a mass scale too horrible for the human mind to imagine, is such a general and distant threat that it alone is not sufficient to cause many minds to 'break'."

2. But world outlook is so uncertain as to cause a feeling of insecurity in many individuals. "Security and satisfaction in everyday life are two cornerstones upon which sanity are built," said Dr. Menninger. "Generally speaking, when insecurity is felt toward issues vital to the individual—his job, his family, his future—he develops anxiety. If no solution is found, mental illness may result. World and national unrest and uncertainty contribute to this personal insecurity."

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PROCEEDS TO CHARITIES

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HAPPY VALLEY RACE COURSE ON SUNDAY, 1st DECEMBER

FIRST SADDLING BELL 2.00 P.M.
FIRST RACE STARTS AT 2.30 P.M.

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- 1st Race—THE ROYAL AIR FORCE CUP
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- 3rd Race—THE UNITED SERVICES CUP
- 4th Race—THE GOVERNOR'S CUP
- 5th Race—THE ROYAL NAVAL CUP

CASH SWEEPS The usual "Through" numbers (\$10) may be obtained at the Office of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Exchange Building, First floor.

TOTE DOUBLE on the 2nd and 4th Races.

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LUNCH A limited number of lunches for Members of The Hong Kong Jockey Club will be available in the Coffee Room. Tables should be booked in advance with the No. 1 Boy at the Club House, Happy Valley, Tel. 2821.

There are a limited number of Boxes available, for which application should be made by Post to the Clerk of the Course, (Lt.-Col. J. R. Edgar, M.B.E., H.Q. R.E.M.E., Land Forces) enclosing a remittance for \$25. Tickets cannot be issued until payments is received.

Major H. M. R. HODGMAN,
Hon. Secretary, H.K.S.R.C.

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Screen Play by Walter Reuther - Adapted by Jerome Thyer

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TO-MORROW "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?" IN TECHNICOLOUR

BRITAIN'S CONCERN OVER FUTURE OF INDIA

London, Nov. 27. Lord Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State of India, made the following statement in the House of Lords today: "The British Government have invited Lord Wavell to come to this country for consultation with regard to the political situation in India and have requested him to invite two representatives of the Indian National Congress, two representatives of the Moslem League and one representative of the Sikh community to accompany him. We are still in communication with the parties, and I can therefore say nothing further at present. The House will be aware that Dr. Jinnah, President of the Moslem League, has stated that Moslem League representatives will not attend the Constituent Assembly, as set up on the basis proposed by the Cabinet Mission, which is due to meet on December 9."

"This situation is mainly due to differences in view between Congress and the Moslem League as to interpretation of certain provisions in the Cabinet Mission statement of May 16."

"The purpose of the proposed discussions is to endeavour to reach a common understanding between the two major parties on the basis on which the work of the Assembly can proceed with the cooperation of all parties."

Meanwhile, Fraser Wighton, Reuters Political Correspondent, says that official London sources today stated that acceptances are still awaited, to the Viceroy's invitations to the Congress and Moslem League.

While news from New Delhi suggests that Congress leaders' first reaction to the proposals was unfavourable may be accurate, it is understood in informed quarters that the Viceroy will do everything in his power to obtain the co-operation of Congress in the discussions.

"Bold Step"

The first reactions of all parties in Parliament to the British Government's invitation are of satisfaction of what is described as a "bold step."

Mr. Reginald Sorenson, Member of the Parliamentary delegation to India, said: "I am very glad indeed to hear that the Viceroy and representatives of the major parties are to visit this country and trust most earnestly that this will not only lead to a deeper understanding between the Moslem League and Congress, but also between Indians and this country. I am sure they will come to the belief that the Labour Government is in earnest in its deep desire that the transition to a new and independent India shall be unaccompanied by riot or violence."

Sir Stanley Reed, Conservative and former editor of the "Times of India," said: "Those who desire above all to serve India have viewed developments with feelings akin to dismay. They nourish the hope, perhaps a vain hope, that working together in a coalition, Congress Party and Moslem League with their Sikh colleagues and representatives of the Scheduled Castes will learn the wisdom and fruitfulness of cooperation and from this will proceed in that spirit to the great work of the Constituent Assembly, which will establish things to come in India possibly for generations."

Deep Desire

The Labour Journalist M.P. Mr. Michael Foot said: "Every one is deeply concerned about (Continued as foot of Next Col.)"

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GOVERNMENT DEFEATED

London, Nov. 27. The Government was defeated by 45 votes to 13 in the House of Lords today, where the Opposition has a big majority. A motion by Lord Templewood, Conservative, calling for immediate and comprehensive penal reform.

Earlier this year it was reported that the Government planned to bring in a measure similar to that prepared last before the war by Lord Templewood (then, Sir Samuel Hoare), but it was not included in this year's legislative programme. Lord Templewood declared that a modern national penal system had no place for corporal punishment.—Reuter.

Mr. Reginald Sorenson, Member of the Parliamentary delegation to India, said: "I am very glad indeed to hear that the Viceroy and representatives of the major parties are to visit this country and trust most earnestly that this will not only lead to a deeper understanding between the Moslem League and Congress, but also between Indians and this country. I am sure they will come to the belief that the Labour Government is in earnest in its deep desire that the transition to a new and independent India shall be unaccompanied by riot or violence."

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A BRITISH CROSS WORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Clues Across

3. Spend lavishly. 19. Dangerous. 21. Scholarly. 22. Happen again. 23. Cover with. 24. Plainer's gold. 25. Ceremonies. 26. Team. 27. Song-thrush. 28. Tiny speck. 29. Lawful. 30. Choppers. 31. Not tied. 32. Part of egg. 33. Mistake.

Clues Down

1. Handshake. 2. Wax light. 3. Excuse. 4. Garder. 5. Leave. 6. Flower. 7. Sour. 8. Happen again. 9. Cover with. 10. Plainer's gold. 11. Ceremonies. 12. Team. 13. Song-thrush. 14. Tiny speck. 15. Lawful. 16. Choppers. 17. Not tied. 18. Part of egg. 19. Mistake.

Yesterday's Crossword

ACROSS:—1. Bessed; 4. Ochre; 7. Militant; 8. Added; 9. Niggle; 11. Stepped; 13. Computer; 15. Standa; 16. Rater; 17. Evidence; 20. Lined; 21. Gather.

DOWN:—1. Human; 2. Sting; 3. Dearest; 4. Octave; 5. Bandy; 6. Evaded; 7. O; 8. Quinque; 12. Testing; 13. Curled; 14. Unseen; 16. Agent; 17. Swear.

Lebanon Disapproves

Beirut, Nov. 27. The Lebanese Parliament have voted unanimous disapproval of the reported Transjordan plans for a "Greater Syria" union, which would include Lebanon, with Syria, Transjordan and Palestine.

The resolution called on the Government to put forward Parliament's views to Transjordan. Dr. Riad el Solh, former Premier, said: "We would shed our blood for independence with in the present frontiers as recognised by the Arab League and the United Nations. We should dismiss with contempt the Greater Syria scheme."

The Acting Foreign Minister, Dr. Salam, said no such project was before the Arab League, but Syria had protested about the reported Transjordan statements to Mohamed el Sharrif, Transjordan Foreign Minister, and was supported by Lebanon, as well as other states.—Reuter.

the trend of events in India in the past few weeks, after the hopes aroused earlier that there was a possibility of real collaboration between the Congress Party and the Moslem League. This invitation appears to me to be a possible way of getting a peaceful outcome to the present difficulties. It is the deep desire of the British Government that India should as soon as possible take full control of her own affairs.

Mrs. Muriel Nichols, Member of the Parliamentary Delegation to India, said she thought the step characteristic of the British Government's determination to try to complete the whole pattern of Indian independence in the face of what were admittedly considerable difficulties.

Mr. Richard Butler, Conservative front bench and Chairman of the Conservative India Committee, said his first reaction was that every effort to make the Constituent Assembly representative of all sections of opinion was to be encouraged.

Criticisms

Mr. Godfrey Nicholson, another member of the Conservative India Committee, said: "I am delighted to learn that the Government are not waiting for disaster before trying to take steps to prevent it. I feel the Conservative Party will make no criticisms that are not constructive. At the same time, I cannot help feeling that too much concentration upon political manoeuvre and negotiation may tend to obscure the fact that actions in the political field cannot avail unless steps are taken to see that the whole administrative machine is strengthened and has confidence restored to it. For there cannot be any doubt that the coming months will be a period of unprecedented strains. Our mistake in the past may well have been that we have concentrated too much upon the problem of administration to the exclusion, or partial exclusion, of the political life. Do not let us fall into the opposite error now."—Reuter.

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Italian Silk Industry On Road To Recovery

AIR AGREEMENT

London, Nov. 28.

A new Anglo-Swedish air agreement was announced here yesterday by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, allowing for the operation, on a reciprocal basis, of civil air services to, through and from Britain and Sweden.

G. S. Lindgren, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, signed for the United Kingdom, and B. G. Tryg, Swedish Minister in London, for Sweden. — Associated Press.

During the first months of 1946, Dr. Giorgio Miceli, secretary of the Italian spinning association, told Associated Press that large quantities of silk already have been exported.

Exports of silk to Britain during 1945 totaled approximately 150,000 kilograms. It is estimated that the new

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Italian Silk Industry On Road To Recovery

AIR AGREEMENT

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G. S. Lindgren, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, signed for the United Kingdom, and B. G. Tryg, Swedish Minister in London, for Sweden. — Associated Press.

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DEBATE ON DEMOB RATE

Mr. Attlee Replies To Critics

The following is a detailed report of the House of Commons debate on the Prime Minister's speech dealing with the demobilisation of British troops serving abroad:

Mr. Anthony Eden (Conservative): "While I do not want to contest the list of present commitments to which the Prime Minister has referred, I feel that we must now add to them the deteriorating situation in India. There are two questions I would like to put to him. As he will be aware, one of the most important sources of discontent is the feeling among the men, who have served long periods during the war, that they were being asked to continue that service, while those replacing them will have to serve for much shorter periods. Will he attempt to meet this by evening that contrast up?"

The second question has relation to reserved occupations. There were many reserved occupations which had to be created for the winning of the war, but it is not easy to persuade serving soldiers that these reserved occupations must remain exactly as they then were. Can anything be done to ensure that those in reserved occupations are reduced to the absolute minimum for the national need and that the others can do their service as others did in the war?"

No Blunder

The Prime Minister: "We do not want to call up people for longer periods than are necessary. People who are called up now will not be serving as long periods as those who had to serve during the war. I will look into the second point to see if anything can be done as to reserved occupations. We are trying to get relief by calling up everybody except those who are absolutely essential at the present time."

Mr. Herbert Hughes (Lab.): "It was stated in the White Paper on call up that men serving in the services on 31st of December 1946, will be released before the end of 1948. Will he assure us that the statement still stands?"

The Prime Minister: "That is our aim."

Viscount Hinchinbrook (Con.): "Is he aware of the colossal blunder which the Government committed in having to demobilise the services of this country down below the safety limit and that having to re-adjust it upwards afterwards involves consequent hardship to our serving men?"

The Prime Minister: "No, there was no blunder. Perhaps he will remember the line taken by the opposition on demobilisation."

Much Discontent

Mr. Shumer (Lab.): "It is not sympathy the wives and parents want, it is their husbands and sons and owing to this holdup, many of the men serving in the Middle East who would have been eligible for leave will have to spend their 4th or 5th Christmas away from home as a result of the slow up in demobilisation. It is not good enough."

The Prime Minister: "I will certainly look into that question of leave. I think I have fully explained the reason and the fact that when we have a target we said that must necessarily depend on circumstances."

A Balance

Mr. Attlee: "We are very well aware of that, but there has to be a balance in these things. It is quite right. It is a hardship to people kept overseas, but I have claims from industry, the universities and the rest that we must not spoil men's careers, but we must to even handed justice."

Mr. Fletcher (Con.): "asked the Prime Minister to remember the importance of the time or release for university students."

The Prime Minister: "I quite agree with that. That is certainly a thing which should be done."

Mr. G. Gallacher (Con.): "Is he aware that the statement he has made today will not ease the bitter feelings many of these soldiers have and will make certain that what happened in the R.A.O.C. Camp in the Middle East, when armed cars and guns were sent to patrol will not be repeated and that British soldiers will not be used against British soldiers?"

The Speaker called on Mr. C. Taylor (Con.), but Mr. Gallacher demanded to have an answer and there was some interruption.

The Speaker: "Mr. Gallacher, put an argument not a question!"

Mr. Gallacher attempted to intervene and there were loud cries of "Order."

Laski's Duel With Eminent K.C.

(Continued from Page 1)

Referring to Professor Laski's book "Reflection on the Revolution of Our Time," Sir Patrick asked: "Is the underlying feature of the book that while war is on there is a chance of revolution by consent but as soon as war is over the chance of consent is gone?"

Professor Laski: "Diminishes."

Hastings: "Gone, I say. Laski: 'I say diminishes.' Hastings: 'Do you accept the word gone?' Laski: 'No, diminishes.'"

Air Chief's Evidence

Later, Professor Laski declared: "I should say that the arrival of the Labour Party in power had reinforced the possibility of the continuance of the revolution by consent which I had looked for as a solution of our problems."

At the end of Professor Laski's cross-examination, which lasted nearly four hours, evidence was introduced of Air Vice-Marshal H. V. Champion de Crespigny, Governor of Schleswig Holstein and Labour candidate for whom Professor Laski was speaking in Newark at the time of the alleged libel.

Crespigny said that he heard questions put by Mr. Wentworth Day to Professor Laski but did not hear Professor Laski mention revolution by violence in his replies.

"I am quite sure that Professor Laski did not make that statement otherwise I should have paid particular attention to it," he declared.—Reuter.

BILLS BECOME LAW

Five Bills became law as they passed their second and third readings in the House of Commons yesterday. They were: The Hong Kong Police Reserve Amendment Ordinance 1946. The Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance 1946. The Tallyclerks (Licensing) Ordinance 1946. The Summary Offences Amendment Ordinance 1946. The Meals and Intoxicating Liquors Tax Ordinance 1946.

All the Bills were moved by the Hon. Attorney General and seconded by the Hon. Colonial Secretary.

NERO FIDDLING?

New York, Nov. 28. —The South African Indian Congress delegation in New York issued a statement today, saying that intervention by the United Nations was "imperative" should be made, "said the dispute."

"If the rule of law is to be maintained, no legislative delays should be made," said the statement, "otherwise it will be a case of Nero fiddling while Rome burned."—Reuter.

RADIO

ZBW Hong Kong broadcasting on a frequency of 945 kilocycles and from 12.30 to 1.15 p.m., 7.30 to 8.30 p.m., and 9.15 to 11.30 p.m., also on 6.52 megacycles.

12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.

12.35 p.m.—Charlie Barnet & His Orchestra & The Ink Spots.

1.00 p.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.

1.10 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude.

1.15 p.m.—"Lullaby" and "Fountain" Variety.

1.35 p.m.—Hans Duller: Ragtime and Landscapes.

1.45 p.m.—Richard Strauss—Tone Poem "Don Juan."

2.00 p.m.—Class Down.

2.30 p.m.—Bob and Blue Crozier.

2.50 p.m.—London Relay: News, "Grind Hotel" Albert Sandler & Palm Court Orchestra.

3.30 p.m.—Studio: Lulu Shaffell at the Piano.

3.50 p.m.—London Relay: News.

4.15 p.m.—"Romance and Rhythm."

4.30 p.m.—Variety: Reginald.

4.50 p.m.—London Transcription: Serenade "The English Theatre No. 11."

5.15 p.m.—"Maiden Hall."

5.45 p.m.—Vocal Solos: Yehudi Menuhin.

6.00 p.m.—London Relay: News.

6.15 p.m.—"The Gondoliers"—An Abridged version of Gilbert & Sullivan's Light Opera.

6.45 p.m.—Mendelssohn's Concert Opus 11.

7.00 p.m.—Class Down.

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"Lisbon Maru" Verdict This Morning

"The widows and children of the 843 men who lost their lives are looking to this Court, confident that justice will be done without fear and without affection." With these words, Major Vine concluded his closing address at No. 5 War Crimes Court yesterday, when the trial came to an end. The findings of the Court of Kyoda Shigeru, master of the "Lisbon Maru," came to an end. The findings of the Court will be pronounced at 10.30 a.m. today.

The closing address by the Defence was read by Captain Kostiloff, who said in part:—"In peace time, the master of any Japanese merchant vessel is in complete charge and his word is law. In war time his authority is limited when his ship has been requisitioned by the Army. In this case, the master's role is restricted to navigation only, while the O.C. Troops in transit is in full charge of all matters and in exceptional circumstances should be thought of as a co-master."

Concluding his address, Major Vine said:—"The accused is therefore before you in order that you may determine the extent to which he was criminally responsible for the loss of 843 British lives after the torpedoing of the 'Lisbon Maru.'"

"He has prostituted his profession and bowed low to a military idol without regard to the higher principles of his calling. If you find the facts in the case for the prosecution proved, then Kyoda Shigeru has brought untimely disgrace upon the most noble traditions of the sea. The widows and children of the 843 men who lost their lives are looking to this Court, confident that justice will be done, without fear and without affection."

Lady Cripps Feted By Chinese

The Chinese community of Hong Kong yesterday gave public expression to their warm admiration and esteem for Lady Cripps when they feted her at a large reception at the Hong Kong Hotel Roof Garden.

The function was sponsored by the three Chinese members of the Legislative Council, and every section of the community was represented. In addition there was a large number of distinguished guests among whom were Miss Nora Yung, the Governor's ADC, Lieut. Parkinson, members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and a large sprinkling of C.I.E.s.

The Hon. Mr. T. N. Chau, on behalf of the hosts, extended a warm welcome to Lady Cripps and her party of co-workers, Chinese, wherever they were, would always remember with gratitude what the BUAC and Lady Cripps did for China's suffering millions to bring them succour in their most trying hour. Such noble and selfless efforts did more than anything else to cement the close friendship subsisting between Great Britain and China, and at a time when mutual understanding and goodwill were needed above all things Lady Cripps had come to China as an ambassador of goodwill to bring closer together the two peoples.

Bishop Hall who next spoke recalled his first visit to Lady Cripps in England in June 1942 when he was persuaded to head an organisation that was to play so important a part in bringing two peoples so much closer together.

Moral Gesture

The Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo followed with a description of efforts made by Chinese in Hong Kong to raise funds to help their mother country before the outbreak of the Pacific War, and how they were supported by their British friends and helpers. He said that from the point of view of moral gesture nothing could equal in value an organisation like the BUAC. The material value, as we all know, he said, was two millions sterling, or 32 million in Hong Kong currency.

Lady Cripps briefly replied, expressing thanks for the warmth of the welcome extended to her and her party, and said her visit to Hong Kong had given them immense pleasure. It had enabled her to understand what was going on here and when she went back to England she would feel that in Hong Kong there were many friends working with her and supporting her in the task awaiting her at home.

Lady Cripps was presented with a jade brooch by the Hon. Mr. T. N. Chau as a souvenir from Hong Kong Chinese of her visit and as a token of their esteem.

Accompanied by the Hon. P. S. Selwyn-Clarke, Lady Cripps

SPORTS SECTION

First Test Match At Brisbane To-Day

Brisbane, Nov. 27.

With the first Test match only two days ahead, both England and Australia practiced here today, writes Norman Preston. Reuter's special correspondent with the MCC. The only abettors were Hutton, who stayed in the hotel flat specially allotted him, and McCool.

The Englishmen spent two sessions, before and after lunch, during which the whole party batted, bowled and fielded seriously. Fishlock made his first appearance in flannels since he fractured the bone in his hand Adelaide, at the nets. He hit the ball freely, and looked to be in fine form despite his lack of match play.

Hammond, who had not made any big scores lately, batted at both sessions, while it was interesting to see Evans behind the stumps wearing pads and gloves.

Within the next few hours the England selectors will make their Test choice and their decision whether Gibb or Evans shall keep wicket is the most vital one they will be called upon to make. Both have been guilty of costly mistakes during the tour, but many consider Evans superior.

High Scoring Expected

Provided the M.C.C. wicket-keeping comes up to real Test standard, it is not considered the English bowlers will let the side down in the Test, which promises mammoth totals by both sides.

There is no question that Hutton will be completely fit. He had recovered today from his chill, and only continued to rest as a precautionary measure. He turned out for practice once during the afternoon.

All the players looked very well, including Bradman. He travelled by train from Adelaide and was the last to arrive. Tribe caused some surprise by clean bowling Bradman with the second ball sent down to the Australian captain.

Weather Hot

Many people think that the final Australian place rests between Tribe and Johnston, but it is doubtful if Tribe's feat in bowling Bradman will influence the selectors.

The weather remains very hot, though a sea breeze makes conditions quite pleasant. The bowlers are likely to spend many hours on the sun-baked ground. If Hammond wins the toss, he may have gone halfway towards winning the match, which has

New Liquor And Tobacco Duties

(Continued from Page 1)

can and should in the main be absorbed by the trade.

It is estimated that the increase in duties now proposed will bring in about \$7,000,000 in a full year, four million of which would be derived from tobacco.

Honourable Members will, I trust, agree that this will represent a very valuable contribution towards the goal which we all have in view, namely the balancing of our budget next year in so far as recurrent expenditure is concerned.

New Duties

The new duties per gallon are as follows (the old rates being given in brackets):

Liquors, champagne and other sparkling wines, Empire origin, \$38 (\$18); other origin, \$44 (\$28).

Brandy, Empire origin, \$32 (\$18); other origin, \$40 (\$24). Gin, whisky and other spirits, Empire origin, \$32 (\$18); other origin, \$40 (\$24).

Port, sherry and madeira, Empire, \$20 (\$10); other, \$25 (\$15). Other still wines, Empire, \$10 (\$5); other, \$20 (\$12).

Cider and perry, Empire, \$2 (\$1); other, \$2.50 (\$1.50). Concentrated beer in whatever form, whether ale, stout or malt and hops concentrate or otherwise, Hong Kong, \$1.15 (\$0.90); Empire, \$1.50 (\$1.20); other, \$1.90 (\$1.60), and in addition, for every degree by which the original gravity exceeds 1005 degrees, Hong Kong, \$0.03 (\$0.02); Empire, \$0.04 (\$0.03); other, \$0.05 (\$0.04).

Other beer, except cider and perry, not exceeding 1005 degrees original gravity, Hong Kong, \$1 (\$0.80); Empire, \$1.50 (\$1.20); other, \$1.90 (\$1.60), and in addition, for every degree by which the original gravity exceeds 1005 degrees, Hong Kong, \$0.03 (\$0.02); Empire, \$0.04 (\$0.03); other, \$0.05 (\$0.04).

Chinese Liquor

Intoxicating liquors in this part above the strength of 22 degrees under proof, for every degree above such strength, in

addition to the duties specified above, Hong Kong, \$0.40 (\$0.20); Empire, \$0.40 (\$0.20); other, \$0.60 (\$0.30).

Chinese type liquor, Hong Kong, \$4 (\$2); Empire, \$4 (\$2); other, \$5 (\$3), and in addition, for every 1% by which the alcoholic strength by weight exceeds 25%, Hong Kong, \$0.16 (\$0.08); Empire, \$0.16 (\$0.08); other, \$0.20 (\$0.12).

Sake, Hong Kong, \$4 (\$2); Empire, \$4 (\$2); other, \$5 (\$3), and in addition, for every 1% by which the alcoholic strength by weight exceeds 25%, Hong Kong, \$0.16 (\$0.08); Empire, \$0.16 (\$0.08); other, \$0.20 (\$0.12).

Spirits of wine or arack, Hong Kong, \$4 (\$2); Empire, \$4 (\$2); other, \$5 (\$3), and in addition, for every 1% by which the alcoholic strength by weight exceeds 25%, Hong Kong, \$0.16 (\$0.08); Empire, \$0.16 (\$0.08); other, \$0.20 (\$0.12).

Assessment Of Duty

It is provided that the Superintendent may assess the duty of intoxicating liquors, not specified in Part One or Two, at the rate prescribed for liquor which in his opinion is most nearly approximates to the liquor on which duty is to be assessed, and that he may, at his discretion, assess the duty on any quantity of liquor of less than two gallons, imported at any time in one consignment, at \$30 a gallon.

Unstripped tobacco containing (a) 10% or more of moisture by weight, of Empire origin, \$1.95 (\$1.30); other origin, \$2.25 (\$1.50); (b) less than 10% of moisture by weight, Empire, \$1.95 (\$1.30); other, \$2.25 (\$1.50).

Stripped tobacco containing (a) 10% or more of moisture by weight, Empire, \$2.10 (\$1.50); other, \$2.40 (\$1.60); (b) less than 10% of moisture by weight, Empire, \$2.25 (\$1.60); other, \$2.55 (\$1.70).

Manufactured Tobacco

Cigars, Empire origin and manufacture, \$4.50 (\$3); Empire manufacture only, \$5.25 (\$3.50); other, \$7 (\$4).

Cigarettes, Empire origin and manufacture, \$3.30 (\$2.20); Empire manufacture only, \$3.90 (\$2.60); other, \$4.80 (\$3.20). Other manufactured tobacco, including snuff and cigar cuttings, of Empire origin and manufacture, \$4.50 (\$3); Empire manufacture only, \$5.25 (\$3.50); other, \$7 (\$4).

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ARMY CRICKET TEAMS

A cricket match will be played between Army Land Force and Dockyard on Sunday at King's Park, at 11.30 a.m. The Army team will be chosen from the following:—Capt. Ozorio, Major Hutchison, Lt. Phelps, Capt. Wadlow, Capt. Pielat, QMS, Andrews, Cpl. Tarrant, Cpl. Tierney, Cpl. Wellings, Signalmen Geldard, Signalmen Kennedy and Cpl. Eardly. Transport at Star Ferry, Kowloon, at 11 a.m.

The following will represent the Army Land Force against K.C.C. in a friendly cricket game on K.C.C. ground on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Major Rowley, Capt. Ozorio, Capt. Wadlow, Lt. Warbrick, Lt. Phelps, QMS, Andrews, Sp. Cokerill, Sp. Geldard, Sp. Kennedy, Cpl. Tarrant, Cpl. Wellings and Cpl. Tierney. Transport at Star Ferry, Kowloon, at 1.30 p.m.

K.C.C. BOWLS TEAMS

At the K.C.C. on Sunday December 1 starting at 3 p.m.:—M.N. Rakusen (skip), T. Lock, D. Hume, R. E. Lee, N. Bebbington (skip), A. Spary, J. Hempey, A.C. Tribble, A.J. Kew (skip), A.E.P. Guest, V.C. Labrun, J. Lee. Will those who are unable to play please telephone Mr. T.A. Madar (26066).

RAF TEAM

The R.A.F. team against C.A.S.C. on Sunday at the Navy ground, Causeway Bay, will be: Moorhouse, Sinclair, Soutar, Anderson, Cashman, Burns, Beech, Sewell, Marshall, Strickland and Thorpe. Reserves: Johnson, Duncan.

DOCKYARD TEAM

The following will represent Dockyard F.C. against Kit Chee in the 2nd Division on Saturday at Navy ground, Happy Valley. S. White, C. Anstis and T. Colegate, R. Stewart, E. Hambley and L. Evans; G. Isherwood, E. Stevens, D. Turner, F. Trout and W. Ritchie.

STERN GANG'S "CEASE FIRE"

Jerusalem, Nov. 28. The Stern Gang, fanatical Jewish terrorist group, tonight issued a "cease fire" order to its special sabotage squads, which have been responsible for the recent attacks on the Palestine railway system. Reason was stated to be that the attacks were interfering with railway movement of the citrus crop.—Reuter.

than 10% Empire, \$2.25 (\$1.60); other, \$2.55 (\$1.70).

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Cigarettes, Empire origin and manufacture, \$3.30 (\$2.20); Empire manufacture only, \$3.90 (\$2.60); other, \$4.80 (\$3.20). Other manufactured tobacco, including snuff and cigar cuttings, of Empire origin and manufacture, \$4.50 (\$3); Empire manufacture only, \$5.25 (\$3.50); other, \$7 (\$4).

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